



Concerning Kids

An update on child advocacy issues critical to you

**March
2004**

Benefits of Modern Schools:

- ✔ Modern science labs
- ✔ State-of-the-art computer capacity
- ✔ More spacious classrooms
- ✔ Year-round learning with air conditioning
- ✔ Designed for community use
- ✔ Natural lighting for improved alertness
- ✔ Safer drop-off points for school buses
- ✔ Wheelchair access

Ohio's Urban Students To Benefit from Modernized Schools and Community Partnerships

Ohio's 8 largest school districts, which enroll 15% of Ohio's students (272,676), have each passed ballot issues raising local matching dollars to begin modernizing roughly 500 schools, at an estimated cost of \$6 billion.

Ohio's 12-year Rebuilding Ohio Schools Program provides state matching dollars to modernize local schools. The Ohio School Facilities Commission has approved district-wide construction and renovation projects in 124 school districts, with more than \$4 billion in state and local dollars appropriated as of December, 2003. Another \$19 billion is expected to be spent statewide to bring all schools up to today's standards.

Construction has been completed for 6 schools in Canton, and one new school in Columbus will open in Spring, 2004. Within the 8 urban districts, dozens more schools are in the planning and design phases, and several ground-breakings are planned for the next 18 months.

	Summary of Plan	Estimated Construction Cost without LFI	State Share*	Local Share	Estimated Construction Cost with LFI**	Timeline
Akron	36 new schools 21 renovations	\$693 million	59%	41%	\$773 million	14 years
Canton	10 new schools 12 renovations	\$168 million	77%	23%	\$173 million	7 years
Cincinnati	35 new schools 31 renovations	\$916 million	23%	77%	\$985 million	10 years
Cleveland	52 new schools 59 renovations	\$1.506 billion	68%	32%	\$1.551 billion	11 years
Columbus***	63 new schools 67 renovations	\$1.3 billion	30%	70%	\$1.6 billion	15 years
Dayton	30 new schools 4 renovations	\$488 million	61%	39%	\$628 million	10 years
Toledo	57 new schools 7 renovations	\$798 million	77%	23%	\$821 million	12 years
Youngstown	6 new schools 10 renovations	\$163 million	80%	20%	\$166 million	5 years
Big 8 Total	289 new schools 211 renovations	\$6.0 billion	N/A	N/A	\$6.6 billion	5 - 15 years

*State Share and Local Share: Percentages shared by the state and local school districts are for costs related to projects eligible for state funds and do not include expenses for Locally Funded Initiatives (LFI).

**Total Construction Cost: Total Construction Costs include Locally Funded Initiatives (LFI), which are projects not eligible for state matching funds. These costs include contingency funds, inflation, land acquisitions, additional space for special needs classrooms, etc.

***In November 2002, voters approved a measure to modernize 38 Columbus schools.

Information provided by individual school districts and the Ohio School Facilities Commission.

KidsOhio.org is an Ohio-led, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to improve the lives and education of Ohio's nearly three million children, especially disadvantaged youngsters. With a statewide reach and a special focus on Columbus and Central Ohio, KidsOhio.org works to improve early childhood care and education, health care, and public education. To learn more, visit the KidsOhio.org web site (www.KidsOhio.org). You can also phone (614-228-6400) or e-mail your questions (KidsOhio@KidsOhio.org).

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Ohio Urban Districts with School Construction Oversight Committees:

- Cleveland
- Columbus
- Dayton
- Toledo

The Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) oversees all school building projects and finances involving state dollars. The OSFC and the local oversight committees help ensure good stewardship of state and local resources. Additionally, the local oversight committees inform the community of the school district's progress and encourage school-community partnerships.

Additional Resources

KnowledgeWorks Foundation
www.kwfdn.org

National Clearinghouse for Education Facilities
www.edfacilities.org

Ohio School Facilities Commission
www.osfc.state.oh.us

21st Century School Fund
www.21csf.org

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Community Partnerships in Ohio's Largest School Districts

Schools around the country share facilities with other community programs such as libraries, museums, zoos and senior centers. Ohio's largest school districts are also planning shared facilities.

Akron: Helen Arnold Community Learning Center and the Urban League

The Center, which is still being planned, combines daytime elementary school use and an evening Urban League community center, which will offer programs such as job training and child and adult education. Contact Akron Public Schools, (330) 761-3225, or visit the Akron Urban League website (www.akronul.org).

Canton: Canton City Schools, the City of Canton, and the Canton Joint Recreation District

This joint venture makes 18 Canton elementary school gymnasiums available for community use. Three of the gyms have been renovated to accommodate both children and adults. Visit www.ccsdistrict.org/partners.html.

Cincinnati: Cincinnati Public Schools and the Cincinnati Zoo

These two institutions have collaborated since 1977, making the Zoo Academy one of 15 schools in the nation affiliated with a zoo. Currently, 32 juniors and seniors attend the Academy, which became a four-year, college preparatory school in 1995. With the opening of a new Education Center in 2005, the Academy will expand to 50 students. Zoo Academy students fulfill regular high school requirements and work with the zookeepers and animals 10 hours per week. Visit the Zoo Academy online: www.cincyzoo.org/Education/zoo%20academy/zooacademy.html

Cleveland: Early College at Cleveland State University

Early College is an Option/ Alternative School within the Cleveland Municipal School District that is located downtown in Cleveland State University's Corlett Building. Early College opened with about 80 freshmen in the fall of 2002 and has a current enrollment of about 170 freshmen and sophomores. In order to enroll at Early College, students must have had a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 in middle school and must be enrolled in the Cleveland Municipal School District. As part of the Post Secondary Education program, Early College students are able to receive credits for college courses taken, free of charge. For more information about Cleveland's Early College call (216) 621-5401.

Columbus: Linden Elementary School and Ohio Health

The new Linden Elementary School Clinic, set to open in Spring 2004, was designed in partnership with Ohio Health as a family health clinic. The old school had a one-room nursing station. Consistent with confidentiality requirements, the new school will have an examination room plus a conference room to be used for counseling and other confidential matters. A physician and registered nurse will visit weekly to conduct a free family health clinic. (www.columbus.k12.oh.us/schpro.nsf/lookup-web/Linden+Elementary+School?opendocument)

Dayton: Dayton Public Schools and Sinclair Community College

Students in the Dayton Public Schools' Engineering Technologies Tech Prep program utilize a Sinclair Community College laboratory. Through the engineering curriculum, high school students can earn college credit. The two institutions share costs for maintenance, a technician's salary, and a new state-of-the-art laboratory. Furthermore, a new Dayton Public Schools Career Technology Center will be located near Sinclair Community College and will potentially be shared with the college. Contact Dayton Public Schools at (937) 542-3000.

Toledo: Start High School, West Family YMCA of Toledo, and an improved Bowman Park

Within a joint facility due to open in 2007, the high school and YMCA will share three gyms, fitness facilities and an aquatics center. This collaboration will result in shared operation costs and increased savings for the district and YMCA. Contact the West Toledo YMCA at (419) 475-3496 or Toledo Public Schools at (419) 729-8200.

Youngstown and Dayton: Early College Academies at Youngstown State University and University of Dayton

Early College Academies are established to encourage at-risk students to complete high school while simultaneously earning college credit. The University of Dayton's Early College Academy opened in 2003 with 100 freshmen; Youngstown State's Academy will open in 2004. Both academies will add 100 freshmen each year, not to exceed 400 students in grades 9 through 12. Funding, in part, comes from a partnership of the KnowledgeWorks Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Visit KnowledgeWorks online to learn more (www.kwfdn.org/press/press_earlycollege.html).